

Varying Degrees of Blindness (Mark 8:10-26)

Proposition: Every person can recognize in this text, their own degree of spiritual blindness, and how to allow Christ to restore our vision.

IV. The Blindness of Disbelief (Vs. 10-13)

- A. Their Disbelief kept them in Resentment (Ch7:6-13)
- B. Their Disbelief closed them in Refusal (Vs. 11-12)
- C. Their Disbelief cost them Rejection (Vs.13)

V. The Blindness of Disciples (Vs. 14-21)

- A. Blindness to His Words (Vs. 14-16)
- B. Blindness to His Works (Vs. 17-21)

VI. The Blindness in Demonstration (Vs. 22-26)

- A. A Demonstration By Procedure (Vs. 23)
- B. A Demonstration By Progression (Vs. 24-26)

Varying Degrees of Blindness MK 8:10-26

The International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI) states that more than 35 million people in the world are blind and another 15 million are considered to have a visual impairment. When discussing blindness or visual impairments, many different terms are used to describe varying degrees of vision loss. "Low vision" refers to a severe visual impairment unable to read newspaper print even with eyeglasses. "Legally Blind" indicates that a person has less than 20/200 vision; they see at 20 feet what most people see at 200 ft. Congenital Blindness means

having been w/out sight since early childhood or birth. "Acquisitive" Blindness means a loss of sight later in life. Well just as there are varying degrees of physical blindness, there are varying degrees of spiritual blindness. Spiritual blindness is often referred to in Bible: 2 Cor 4:3-4; 1 Pet 2:9. This account reveals varying degrees of spiritual blindness. Every person can recognize in this text, their degree of spiritual blindness and see how to allow Christ to restore our vision. Notice first of all.

I. The Blindness of Disbelief (vs 10-13) - Jesus was met by the Pharisees, who were tempters or testing him. They wanted to trap him. They didn't come to hear him speak and teach.

our mind as he said w/ scripture. They were driven regardless

A. Their Disbelief kept them in Resentment (Ch 7: 6-13)

They were already riled up and indignant at Jesus for what he said in previous Chap. 7: 6-13. Jesus had turned the spotlight on their hypocrisy. Publically stripped off their religious facade. And instead of receiving the truth of his statement and who he was, they rejected and resented. Their unbelief drove them into further darkness. Don't sour ^{up}

B. Their Disbelief closed them in Refusal (Vs 11-12)

Show us a sign from heaven! We want to see something spectacular. They wanted fire from heaven like Elijah. Yet all along Jesus had done miracle after miracle and yet they refused to believe! It's not that there was not enough evidence, they simply would not believe. Reminds me of Luke 16: 31. This grieves the Lord ^{to heaven} a sign.

C. Their Disbelief cost them Rejection (Vs 13)

Jesus turned his back to them and walked away. He left them in their darkness. If you want to live in darkness, God will let you. That's what can happen to those who are willfully blind, they refuse the revelation he's already given. It's not that they can't see they won't see. (Vs 14) I heard this poem

II. The Blindness of Disciples (Vs 14-21)

In these verses we go on to see another degree of blindness. This time not of rebellious willfulness but a dull ignorance. Over 10 years

1) 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. 1 Peter 2:9 ...hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

2)sour up when the preacher takes the word and reveals sin. Don't reject when the word when it shines on your sin! Come out of darkness and receive the light, don't retreat into darkness.

3) Luke 16:31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

4) 'There is a time, we know not when, A place, we know not where; Which marks the destiny of men To glory or despair. There is a line, by us unseen; Which crosses every path, Which marks the boundary between God's mercy and His wrath.

O, where is that mysterious line That may by men be crossed, Beyond which God Himself hath sworn, That he who goes is lost. An answer from the skies repeats, 'Ye who from God depart,' Today, O hear His voice! Repent And harden not your heart'.

1) ...my wife that if I say or do something to hurt her it is not out of an intentional desire to hurt her it is out of stupidity and ignorance. Here we find these disciples stumbling in a blindness of ignorance.

2) ...sour up when the preacher takes the word and reveals sin. Don't reject when the word when it shines on your sin! Come out of darkness and receive the light, don't retreat into darkness.

3) Luke 16:31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

4) There is a time, we know not when. A place, we know not where; Which marks the destiny of men to glory or despair.

2) Legge - It is usually the case that God's people have a tendency to forget His past blessings when they have a present need.

That's why the Psalmist says in 103: 'Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits'.

Today O hear His voice! Repent And pardon not your heart.

of marriage due to the command in Matthew 19:10-11. ①
A. Blindness to His Words (Vs 14-16) - Vs 14 gives
us a set up for the conversation. Maybe while the
subject of bread is up and Pharisees in recent memory
Jesus pursues a teaching moment. Vs 15 Leaven is a pict
of sin. It is small and might be undetectable
yet it permeates and infiltrates the bread. The
sin of Pharisees was pride. The sin of Herod is
worldliness. Each can be small and unnoticeable
in entry but can mushroom out of control. Vs 16 it
went right over their head. They completely missed
it. Why? They were preoccupied with temporal
bread, bread for body instead of bread for soul. Apply
B. Blindness to His Works (Vs 17-21) - Their

concern is that they have no bread. Alas
it makes you want to pull your hair out.
Jesus asks 9 questions in a row ham
ham ham. Trying to get through. Trying
to get through their dullness of heart. They
have ears but are not hearing; eyes yet are not
seeing. Why are you worrying about bread
for 13 when I've just miraculously given bread
to 4000+. But are we not just as blind?
Leaps ② Like the old song He's all I need
He's all I need Jesus is all I need...

III. The Blindness in Demonstration (22-26)
I have an example a demonstration
in high school math as long as I
had that one demonstration or how to work

Problem then it could work the here Jesus demonstration

A. A Demonstration by Procedure (Vs 23)

Notice the procedure. Jesus took him out of town. In Ch 7:33 he took deaf aside. There was some separation! God had to separate him from some things. Maybe influences may be people, maybe pulls. In order for God to change vision he's got to separate you. Spit in eye! Where I came from a fight just broke out! Unorthodox. Unusual to be sure. No other miracle like it. There is only one way of salvation but many ways to it. Some come to Christ in despair, depravity, disgrace.

B. A Demonstration By Progression (Vs 24-26)

There is a progression he wasn't healed right away because of lack of faith in Jesus. No Jesus in miracle is teaching thru demonstration to His disciples. This man now has a partial vision, it's a squinted vision. There's light now! No more darkness! But he wasn't seeing right. Christ touched him again he progressed him. This man was looking horizontally Vs 25 "made him look up." When you get an upward look it will correct an outward look. Do you need Jesus to touch you

IV. Closing - Jesus said No sign will be given. Mt 16. No sign save Jonah. Resurrection of Christ. Plentiful sign given. Repent & believe. What about your blindness? Jesus touch again.